

# Monitoring

Environmental controlling  
To assess our performance we regularly monitor and measure the development of the significant environmental aspects. The indicators are determined during the goal-setting process. These show the results with respect to the environmental goals and to the external and internal requirements.

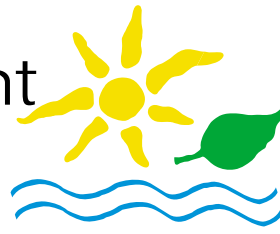
If requirements are not met, or if the results do not conform with the goals set, we can trigger corrective and preventive action. We keep appropriate records in order to provide information at any time.

Audits of the environmental management system  
We use audits to investigate the effectiveness of the environmental management system at appropriate intervals. The main emphasis lies on the suitability of the structure and work sequence for:

- the analysis of environmental aspects, environmental impacts and requirements
- setting environment-related goals
- deriving environmental management programs.

The extent to which environment-related goals are reached is an important element in judging the ability of the existing system to implement the measures required.

# Management review



The periodical evaluation of environmental management by corporate management reflects the fact that responsibility cannot be delegated.

The suitability of the environmental management system, and its effectiveness, must be regularly assessed in the light of the overall corporate structure. The products and services offered, the environmental aspects and the external requirements are always subject to changes. Their assessment may lead to early modification of the system.

The extent to which environment-related goals are reached, and the degree of conformance with legal requirements, form additional important components of a review. The results of environmental management system audits serve as a basis for this evaluation.

# Environmental policy



Heerbrugg, April 2004

Arthur Philipp  
President  
APM Technica AG

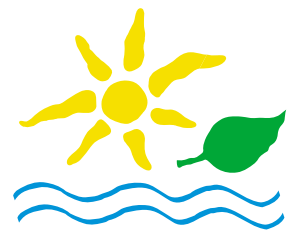
The different companies on the technology park at Heerbrugg sustain a common environmental management system. This is supported by APM Technica AG. Tel. +41 (0)71 727 37 73.



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Awareness and competence  
 We well realize that the organizational regulations cannot be successfully implemented without the help of all employees. Only a concerted effort by many people will bring substantial and sustainable improvements.

Consequently we are focusing on promoting awareness and competence by applying appropriate measures for communication and training.

Communication  
 We believe that communication is a key function in our efforts to protect the environment. By presenting our efforts in an open manner, we can further enhance our credibility in the eyes of shareholders, employees, the authorities, our customers, our business associates and the general public. We can also justify our investments through a proven increase in competitiveness.

Handbook, guidelines and working instructions  
 Our environmental management handbook is the interface between our environmental policy and the guidelines, instructions and checklists. It describes all of the main elements making up the environmental management system and the interplay between them. It also points out the associated documents.

Emergency prevention and management  
 With prevention in mind rather than cure, we analyze possible situations in which accidents or emergencies may occur. We then take measures to limit or even prevent the associated possible impacts on the environment. We inspect and update the measures taken to prevent and deal with emergencies. The procedures are tested at regular intervals.





# Implementation

Organisation and responsibility

Environmental responsibility

Corporate management is responsible for environmental protection.

We live this responsibility for integrated environmental protection in that all members of management contribute in accordance with their positions.

Lasting improvements are possible only if environmental protection is perceived as being a function of management.

It is the responsibility of management to ensure that environmental goals are reached as well as financial ones.

In addition, all employees are committed to carrying out their tasks in an environmentally acceptable manner. Their proximity to the problem ensures that effective solutions are found quickly.

Environmental commissioner

Because of the complexity of environmental issues, the members of management are supported by an environmental commissioner.

The environmental commissioner supervises most of the environment-related tasks.

The commissioner carries the technical responsibility. It is his duty to ensure that management is correctly informed, instructed, advised and monitored.

The responsibilities of the environmental commissioner can be largely described as follows:

- To formulate the environmental policy and to adjust it regularly in the light of new developments.
- To conduct environmental analyses.
- In consultation with management to formulate environment-related goals.
- To initiate, assist in and coordinate environment management programs to promote products and procedures which are more environmentally friendly.
- To communicate with the coordinator about all environmental aspects.
- To introduce precautionary measurements of pollutant levels.
- To carry out internal audits.
- To monitor the development of environmental law and environmental technology, and also of the market.
- To serve as an interface to authorities, environmental protection organisations and consultants.
- To be active in public relations as regards environmental matters.
- To serve as an internal information desk for all ecological queries («green telephone»).
- To increase the environmental awareness of our employees particularly by further training.

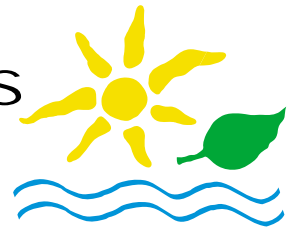
# Purpose

This environmental policy is an expression of our collective concern about the environment. We consider it important that our products are developed and manufactured in an environmentally sound manner. Environmental protection is a long-term opportunity to further consolidate the trust already placed in our products and our services, and to improve our competitiveness.

The policy establishes the basic principles for incorporating environmental protection into our everyday business. It describes the core elements of the environmental management system.

Our environmental policy is open knowledge. It is available to all of our employees, customers, shareholders and business associates, and to the general public.

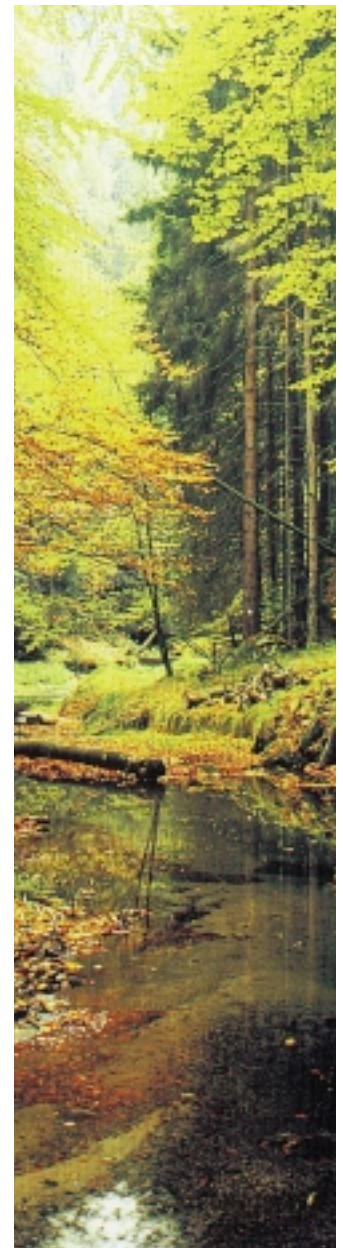
# References



ICC charter  
Through its environmental commission, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has issued a Business Charter for Sustainable Development. This ICC charter includes the basic principles for managing a business in an environmentally conscious manner. Our environmental policy is based on these principles.

ISO standard 14001  
Our environmental management system is established on the principles of ISO standard 14001. Its most important requirements are incorporated into our environmental policy.

Concept of sustainable development  
This concept, which links economical, ecological and social concerns, serves as an additional reference. We understand sustainable development as continuous development aimed at meeting the requirements of the current generation while not endangering the quality of life for future generations.



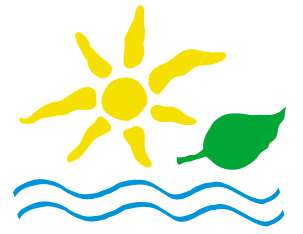


# Our environmental guideline

The basic principles we apply to environmental matters in order to attain continuous improvement are evident in our environmental guideline:

- We comply with all relevant laws, regulations and directions which relate to environmental protection. If no legal requirement exists, we formulate our own standard.
- We support with all means available the preservation of natural resources by economising the use of materials and by recycling waste.
- We use energy carefully and economically for our buildings, for our manufacturing activities and for the services that we provide.
- We use only safe and environmentally-acceptable installations for our manufacturing processes. We take all steps to ensure safety, health and environmental protection.
- We develop products and procedures that are safe, conserve energy, have a minimum impact on the environment and, where possible, permit recycling.
- We give preference to suppliers who are both competitive and ecologically conscious. We expect suppliers to comply with our environmental policy.
- We instruct our employees in the fundamentals of environmental matters so that they act both in a creative and ecologically responsible way.
- We proactively support open cooperation with public authorities and institutions, and with industrial associations and other non-governmental organisations.
- We regularly collect and publish data about the use of resources, about the emissions and waste material produced by our activities, and about the associated risks.

# The environmental goal-setting process



Before we set any environment-related goals, we accurately analyse the on-site situation. We maximize the attainable improvements using a given situation.

Identification of environmental aspects and of environmental impacts

For all activities, products and services under our responsibility and which we can influence, we determine the associated environmental aspects, which include the following in particular:

- Emissions
- Waste water
- Waste material
- Ground
- Materials
- Energy / water
- Packaging / paper
- Emergency risks
- Health / safety

We take into consideration not only the directly-caused, controllable environmental aspects, but also the indirect impacts which these may have (e.g. greenhouse effect, depletion of the ozone layer).

Identification of requirements

The authorities, the public and our customers define environmental requirements for the activities, products and services that we can guide and influence. By thoroughly analysing the most diverse requirements, we can make an early diagnosis of environmentally-relevant trends and then take appropriate measures.

This analysis also serves to measure our own performance against our standards which we had already defined in a previous goal-setting process.

Significant environmental aspects and requirements

We assess both environmental aspects and requirements, because they are mutually dependent. For example, the threshold values set out in the legal requirements are important for determining significant environmental aspects. Conversely market requirements, or those of the general public, can be assessed only in the light of the actual environmental aspects and their impacts.

Environment-related goals

When analysed all together, the following factors give an overall picture:

- Significant environmental aspects and their impacts
- Significant external requirements
- Assessment of internal standards previously set
- Assessment of the improvement programs already started.

From this overall picture, and in consultation with the person responsible, new environment-related goals can be derived.

Environmental management programs

We derive appropriate environmental management programs in order to achieve the environment-related goals. We define the responsibilities, the approach and the time frame.

## Authorities

By proactively keeping up to date with environmental laws we endeavour to introduce appropriate and timely changes to our environmental activities.

## The general public

We are interested to sound out public opinion about specific materials or products so that we can fulfil our associated obligations to the community.

## Customers

We endeavour to keep in touch with environmentally-relevant trends in our markets so that information gained can be channelled into the development of new products. When our customers make certain requests, we want to be in a position to present innovative solutions.

## Internal requirements

Our activities, products and services are reflected in the environmental policy, in the environmental goals already set, and in the improvement programs already started. The extent to which expectations are met, and the choice of goals, are both assessed.

